**UCLA** *Academic Senate*

November 20, 2017

Shane White
Chair, Academic Council

RE: Systemwide Senate Review: Proposed Amendment to Senate Bylaw 128, Conflicts of Interest

Dear Shane,

The Executive Board of the UCLA Academic Senate discussed the proposed amendment to Senate Bylaw 128, Conflicts of Interest, at its meeting on March 8, 2018. The Executive Board solicited comments from standing committees of the Senate, as well as the Faculty Executive Committees, to maximize faculty feedback; the individual responses from our various committees follow.

Committee members reported that Senate Bylaw 128 and the amendment are straightforward and agreed with the proposed amendment. However, during Executive Board discussion, there were a few members who indicated otherwise, stating that there are different kinds of conflict of interest and that the bylaw may be too vague as currently written. Some members were unclear as to what constitutes a conflict of interest. Because there are so many different types of conflict (e.g., financial, personal, work related), members suggested adding language "including but not limited to…" and providing examples when one might need to recuse oneself.

Though not addressed in the bylaw, one board member did raise the question of what, if any, recourse there is for instances when a conflict of interest is made known only after votes have been reported and a decision has been made.

The Executive Board appreciates the opportunity to opine. Please feel free to contact me should have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sandra Graham
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

cc: Hilary Baxter, Executive Director, Systemwide Academic Senate
Susan Cochran, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate
Joe Bristow, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, UCLA Academic Senate
Michael LaBriola, Principal Policy Analyst, Systemwide Academic Senate
Linda Mohr, Chief Administrative Officer, UCLA Academic Senate